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**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
AND DEVELOPMENT NAMED
AS LAUREATE FOR
2000 COMPUTERWORLD SMITHSONIAN PROGRAM**

Sacramento, California - The Department of Community Services and Development's California Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Automated Service System (CLASS) is now part of a Smithsonian collection that includes more than 440 of the year's most innovative applications of technology from 38 states and 21 countries.

The Department received this honor in conjunction with the Computerworld Smithsonian Award Program on April 3 when the 2000 Information Technology Innovation Collection was formally presented. A case study of the application is now part of the Permanent Research Collection on Information Technology at the Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.

John Chen, President and Chief Executive Officer of Sybase, Inc., nominated the Department for the Government and Non-Profit Organization category. The Department was recognized along with other Year 2000 Laureates as "Heroes of the Information Age" and as "examples of information technology being used to benefit society."

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Community Services and Development is one of 71 Laureates from throughout the world in the “Government and Non-Profit” category, and the only California State Government agency represented in the Year 2000 collection. Crilly Butler, senior programmer analyst, who was instrumental in designing the system, received a commemorative medallion on behalf of California and the Department at the presentation of the Collection to the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History on the National Mall in Washington.

Representatives from the Department and local service providers developed the CLASS system which enables low-income families to apply for crucial energy assistance benefits from the State through a secure internet connection at the offices of 47 local service providers. The system expedites the determination of eligibility, calculation of benefit amounts and crediting of utility energy accounts.

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The California Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) was created by Executive Order in 1964. The Department is the state-level partner with the network of local community service agencies. Its mission is to assist low-income Californians in achieving self-sufficiency.